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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/758,682

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Applicant(s)

KREMA ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/2/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Baxter on 9/8/05.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 12, in the last line; insert - -which provides the exposure settings to the source control unit- - after "a control panel"

In claim 15, in line 11; insert - -which provides the exposure settings to the source control unit- - after "a control panel"

In the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 3 of the original specification, as amended on pages 9 and 10 of the Amendment filed 9/2/05; insert - -The sensor driver 38 and the image processor 39 can be integrated or presented as a single unit 46.- - after "The source control unit 45 and the control panel 42 can be housed in a single enclosure 48 or can be detachable in order to enable remote operation."

In the same paragraph noted above in the Amendment filed 9/2/05, in line 10 of the same paragraph, in the phrase "sensor control unit 45"; replace "sensor" with - -source-

In the same paragraph noted above in the Amendment filed 9/2/05, in line 13 of the same paragraph, in the phrase “sensor control unit 45”; replace “sensor” with - -source-

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In the same paragraph noted above in the Amendment filed 9/2/05, in line 14 of the same paragraph, in the phrase “sensor control unit 45”; replace “sensor” with - -source-

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Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-20 are allowed. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance.

4. Regarding claims 1 and 11, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a system including a control panel coupled to a source control unit which provides exposure settings to the source control unit, and an image processor coupled to a sensor driver for converting an analog output x-ray image received from an image sensor to a digital format image and for processing the digital format image, wherein the image processor interfaces with the source control unit for receiving the exposure settings of an x-ray source, in combination with all the limitations in each respective claim. Claims 2-10 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

5. Regarding claims 12 and 15, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method including the steps of coupling a sensor driver and an image processor to an image sensor for receiving an analog output x-ray image from the image sensor and converting the analog output

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x-ray image to a digitally formatted x-ray image, wherein the image processor interfaces with a source control unit for receiving exposure settings from an x-ray source, and receiving the digitally formatted x-ray image from the image processor at a control panel which provides the exposure settings to the source control unit, in combination with all the limitations in each respective claim. Claims 13, 14, and 16-20 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER